

Conservation Connections

Missouri Department of Conservation St. Louis Regional Newsletter



December 2009

Rain Gardens

*by Perry Eckhardt, Private Land Services, Missouri Department of Conservation
and Theresa Dunlap, St. Charles County Soil and Water Conservation District*

Rain gardens, with their wildlife and water quality benefits, are gaining notoriety throughout the St. Louis region. The potential to provide excellent pocket habitat areas for beneficial wildlife combines with aesthetic beauty to seduce many homeowners, while the water quality benefits have persuaded the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District to encourage their use.

A rain garden is a shallow depression containing native plants, designed to capture a portion of a property's stormwater runoff. Water temporarily ponds in the garden and will either infiltrate the soil, evaporate into the atmosphere, or be used by plants. The result is a smaller volume of polluted water that will discharge into local streams.

Native plants are a key component of a rain garden. Natives seldom, if ever, require fertilizers and pesticides, both of which cause serious water quality issues. Since the garden is considered a "stormwater management practice," it would actually be counterproductive to use such chemicals in the care of the garden. Another benefit to using natives is found in the fact that they develop deep and extensive root systems. As the roots develop, the garden will be able to infiltrate more and more stormwater runoff, resulting in increased benefits over time.

Rain gardens are easy to construct. The first step is identifying the location. Choose an area at least ten feet away from the building which receives water from a rainwater source such as the gutter downspout. Then remove a few inches of soil, reserving this soil for possible use as a berm on the downstream side of the garden. The native plants can then be directly planted into the depression,

or you can dig a little further and replace some of the soil with compost, gravel, and other soil amendments before planting.

There is a large variety of native plants suitable for rain gardens. If the garden will stay moist for most of the year, then cardinal flower, blue lobelia, southern blue flag, copper iris, and orange coneflower are good choices. If the garden drains quickly and stays mostly dry, then just about any mesic prairie plant will do, such as asters, coneflowers, milkweeds, and goldenrods, to name a few. Don't forget grasses and sedges to provide texture, color and support for the forbs. Several shrubs and trees are also appropriate for rain gardens including red buckeye, buttonbush, spicebush, river birch, and sugarberry.

There is a tendency to worry about mosquitoes in association with rain gardens. Since most rain gardens are designed to drain within a few days, mosquito larvae usually does not have time to develop. However, if water does permanently or semi-permanently pool, then there are commercial products such as mosquito dunks that can be used. Or use our favorite alternative – native topminnows who will naturally and hungrily keep the pests at bay.

There are several great resources on rain gardens including Shaw Nature Reserve's native plant school and native landscaping manual (chapter 2). A group of students from Ladue has put together a nice rain garden project, which can be viewed on the web at: www.teamleaf.org. Finally, the Show Me Rain Gardens program has a new web-site: www.showmeraingardens.com, which provides excellent resources for those wanting to learn more about the topic.

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 2 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

4 Painting the Birds

Friday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 10 & up) Come in to learn about birds and their habitat. Connect to these masters of the sky through sketching and painting using a real bird mount as your subject. (Reservations begin November 20.)



5 Nature's Gifts

Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(Families) Would you like to do something that doesn't involve being in the cold? Are you looking for a unique card or gift to give this holiday season? Make your own at our craft program! We've spent the year collecting leaves, flowers, and lots of other items to make unique items for your home or someone else's. Make paper for a card, decorate a pot for a plant, or use a pinecone to feed the birds. We have more than a dozen crafts to choose from and while you may not have time to do all of them, you are welcome to do as many as you like. (No reservations necessary, stop by any time between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.)



8 Winter Birds

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

(Ages 3 – 6) Come and flock to the feeders as we discover the many winter birds that visit Missouri. We will learn special features of these birds, make our own ID booklets, and even make a treat for the birds that you can take home. (Reservations begin November 24.)

12 Clark Hike & Winter Food for Wildlife

Saturday 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Adults) The Weldon Spring area supports a wide range of wildlife during the winter. Have you ever wondered what natural food sources are available for these animals? Come out and join us for an invigorating 5.3 mile hike through the hills of the Weldon Spring Conservation Area as we look for nuts, berries, and other food that the native animals eat during the winter. If the weather conditions are right we may even see one of nature's works of art called frost flowers. (Reservations begin November 25.)

Volunteer Milestones

Linda Pallmann 1500 hours
Glenn Senter 1250 hours
Patricia Senter 1250 hours
Joe Veras 1000 hours

15 Discover Nature – Families: Candle Making

Tuesday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(Families with children ages 11 & up) Learn how to use your resources just like the pioneers! Join us as we try our hand at making old-fashioned dip candles using nature-inspired materials. Participants will get to take home their very own homemade candles. (Please note: This program involves hot wax, so please leave younger siblings at home. (Reservations begin December 1.)



18 Owl Prowl

Friday 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(Families) Who's awake when you're asleep? Come learn about Missouri's owls and take a short hike in the woods to call to your wild Missouri owls. (Reservations begin December 4.)

19 Carnivores of Missouri

Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 7 – 12) Come and learn about some of Missouri's most adaptable and effective hunters. The flesh-eating mammals of Missouri are beautiful animals with fairly high intelligence. Some may even visit your backyard on a regular basis even if you don't see them. Find out why it is so important that we allow these efficient predators to flourish. (Reservations begin December 4.)

26 Night Hike

Saturday 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(Families) Experience the sounds of the night during a moderate hike at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area. We will hike the Busch Hiking/Biking Trail which is approximately 3 miles in length. We hope to hear several species of owls and possibly coyotes howling under the nearly full moon. (Reservations begin December 11.)

29 Discover Nature – Families: Orienteering with Map and Compass

Tuesday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

(Families with children ages 10 & up) The skill of map and compass reading are valuable in everyday life and many outdoor activities. Those who hike, bike, hunt, fish, or backpack into remote areas should consider map reading and compass use as part of basic first aid skills. (Reservations begin December 15.)



Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday - Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.;
Saturday - Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877- 6014 Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.;

Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

10 Whoo's Up at Night?

Thursday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 3 – 6) Discover these fantastic animals with amazing adaptations. Listen to great owl stories. Do a craft and learn a song. Together we will dissect a pellet to see what they have found while you were sleeping. (Reservations begin November 25.)



15 Wreath-Making Series: The Final Project

Tuesday 10 a.m. – Noon & 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

(Families) Using what we have already collected over the past three months, we will create one of-a-kind natural wreaths. You might be surprised what happens when creativity and the natural world are brought together to create a masterpiece! If you missed the first two programs in this series it is okay because all supplies will be provided. This program will be indoors. (Reservations begin December 2.)

12 Winter Adventure Hike

Saturday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(All ages) With the chill of winter in the air join us for a hike at Dresser Island to take in the sights and sounds of early winter. We may get lucky and spot some early arrivals of the Bald Eagle migration. To get to Dresser Island from I-270 in north St. Louis County go about 6 miles north on US-67 to MO-94 near West Alton. Go west on MO-94 through West Alton; continue west to the conservation sign to Dresser Island. Turn right and park in the parking area near the causeway. (Reservations begin November 28.)

31 New Year's Eve Night Hike

Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(All ages) End the year on a calm, quiet stroll in the crisp, clean air along the wooded path at Columbia Bottom. The group will linger at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers as they are illuminated by a full blue moon. Meet at the Slough Exploration Station for the group-led hike. (Reservations begin December 17.)

DISCOVER LITTLE KNOWN NATURE FACTS

BLUE MOON

This month we will experience a "Blue Moon" on December 31. A blue moon is the second full moon in the same month. There are approximately 29.5 days between full moons so it is unusual to have two full moons in one month. Blue moons occur approximately every 2.5 years. Hence the expression . . .

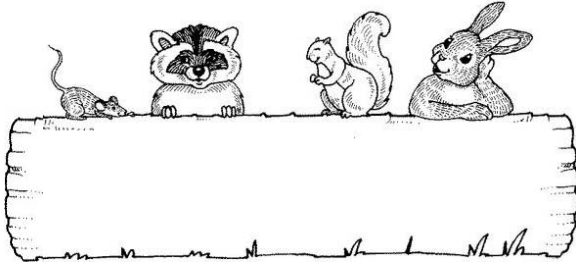
"Once in a blue moon"

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/



5 Guess What Lives Here

Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon

(Adults) Enhance your natural history skills by learning how location differences on one trail determine the plants and animals found there. We'll be hiking through 2 - 3 miles of beautiful Rockwoods forests. (Reservations begin November 20.)

10 Winter Wreath for the Birds

Thursday 10 a.m. – Noon

(Families with children ages 5 & up) Come join us and get your hands gooey as we make suet and other edibles to put on a wreath for our winter birds. See which feathered friends stick around to eat your nourishing creation. (Reservations begin November 25.)

11 Owl Prowl

Friday 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

(Families) Who's that hooting it up each December evening? Owls, that's who! You will learn what makes them such effective night hunters and why they hoot so much this time of year. We will be focusing on those owls that you might hear or see in our state. Please dress for the weather since we will be going outside to try to see or hear these elusive nocturnal predators. (Reservations begin November 25.)



11 Winter Tree ID

Friday 10 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 10 & up) What happened to all of the trees? How do you know which one is which? In this program, we'll take you out on a hike to learn to identify some of Missouri's trees. We'll learn how to use a dichotomous key, identify species by looking at the bark, and use the tree's shape in identification. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin November 27.)

Maple Sugar – A New Look at Winter!

Cabin Fever and the winter blues are no joke! You long for the warmer days of spring wildflowers, summer gardening, fall hunting, and enjoying the outdoors with family and friends in all seasons... but you haven't yet figured out how to make the best of the winter. It's a tricky season to get outdoors. Maybe you just need a little inspiration. It could be it's time to look at the trees in your yard just a little differently.

Just around the corner is maple sugar season! During late January and all of February you can tap just about any deciduous tree (sugar maple trees are best) to gather sap to make syrup and sugar at home! Don't get me wrong, it's a long tough season of drilling holes, hanging buckets, boiling sap, and filtering syrup. However, before you know it the ground will be thawed, the trees will be budding and instead of your typical winter stuck indoors, you'll have been outdoors connecting to nature just like Native Americans and early colonial Americans did with a stock of maple sweetness as your reward. Contact us if you need any help in your Maple Sugar ventures:

School Teachers: Call 636-458-2236 to schedule a field trip with our Naturalists (January 27 – February 19)

Public Maple Sugar Festival: Saturday, February 6th – Free for all ages!

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-1309 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Boulevard, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left onto Lindell. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first available right onto Grand Drive. The Visitors Center is the tan brick, red tile-roofed building with arched windows, and a clock tower. It will be on the right side of the street. Free parking is available in the double lot to the left or on the street.

2 Full Moon Hike

Wednesday 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

(All ages) Celebrate the last full moon of the year as we hike through Kennedy Forest. From sight to sound, touch to taste, your senses will come alive with all there is to explore. This rare, urban forest is a well-kept secret, home to several nocturnal animals. The hike will be guided by Forest Park Forever and Missouri Department of Conservation naturalists. Please wear comfortable shoes and dress warm! This program meets outdoors under the pavilion in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Forest. (Reservations begin November 18.)



10 Animals in the Winter

Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

(Ages 3 – 5) We will explore and discuss different animals and the different ways they prepare to survive winter. This hands-on program will take place inside the Forest Park Visitor Center. (Reservations begin November 25.)

Park Partners: MDC and Forest Park Forever



The Missouri Department of Conservation office in St. Louis is in a unique situation, housed in the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor & Education Center alongside Forest Park Forever and Oasis. Unlike the Nature Center at Powder Valley or the surrounding Conservation Areas, the satellite office within Forest Park does not manage or maintain the 1,371 acres of Forest Park. Most of this work is done by the City of St. Louis and Forest Park Forever. The Conservation Department at Forest Park coordinates and delivers school and public programs as well as provides educational consultations and resources for area teachers. A wide variety of outdoor skills opportunities are also available within the Park. Fortunately for the organizations that

share the Visitor's Center, there are plenty of partnering opportunities in order to promote our mission. Forest Park Forever is one such partnership.

A nonprofit organization, Forest Park Forever's mission is to restore, maintain, and sustain Forest Park as one of America's great urban public parks, for the enjoyment of all now and forever. Through the Nature Reserve Staff, Forest Park Forever (FPF) has taken a leadership role in restoring and maintaining several natural ecosystems within the park including savannas, prairies, wetlands, primary, secondary, and successional forests. These efforts allow for all who visit the park to immerse themselves in a diversely rich, native environment within the confines of the city.

Just a few of the ongoing partnership programs include Voyagers Teachers Academy, Family Fall Funfest and the Missouri Master Naturalist program. This month, both MDC and FPF staff will lead a *Full Moon Hike* geared for all ages (see above for more details).

In January, Lesley Hoffarth, newly appointed Executive Director for Forest Park Forever, will join the organization to oversee long term sustainability efforts to ensure that Forest Park remains a model and forerunner for urban parks across the nation. To learn more, visit www.forestparkforever.org

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

1 Nature's Niche: Romancing the Owl

Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 50 & up) Owls do more than just give a hoot! In fact, Missouri owls are on the prowl, and not just for food!! Come to Powder Valley and discover owl behavior, adaptations, and courting rituals that are just taking place for the next few months throughout our state. Enjoy making a simple owl craft at the end of the program. (Reservations begin November 17.)

2 Christmas for the Birds

Wednesday 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

(Ages 3 – 6) Join us for a delightful story time and making an ornament for a bird tree in your yard. (Reservations begin November 18.)



3 Tap! Tap! Tap! Woodpeckers

Thursday 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

(Ages 3 – 6) What's all that tapping about? Learn about these fascinating birds. We'll also make a bird feeder just for woodpeckers. (Reservations begin November 19.)

5 Junior Audubon: Wild Wings of Winter

Saturday 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(Ages 8 – 14) Join the St. Louis Audubon Society as we make bird feeders, gain skills in identifying winter birds and learn how to become citizen scientists! (Reservations begin November 24.)

8 Rocking Chair Story Time: Winter

Tuesday 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

(Ages 2 – 5) Enjoy some nature stories, sing a couple of songs, and make a simple craft about winter and nature. (Reservations begin November 24.)

8 Beginning Journaling

Tuesday 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

(Ages 3 – 6) Come learn all about making a journal of your very own! We'll learn the principles of journaling and make a wonderful book to take home. (Reservations begin November 24.)



9 Discover Nature – Women: "Show Me" Quilts!

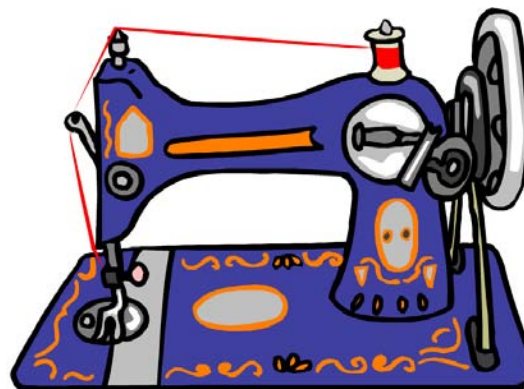
Wednesday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(Ages 14 & up) Sew it and show it in the true "Show Me" state fashion! Spend the afternoon at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park and explore a few of Missouri's state symbols with a focus on the Eastern Bluebird. Learn about bluebirds and discover how birds overwinter in Missouri! Afterwards, get ready to construct your own Eastern Bluebird appliqué. There will be a short list of items you will need to bring. The list will be sent to you after registration. We will meet at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park.



Experienced and inexperienced quilters are all encouraged to attend. By the end of the program series, you will be equipped with nine quilt block patterns. These patterns include the flowering dogwood tree, Eastern Bluebird, white hawthorn blossom, Missouri mule, three-toed box turtle, paddlefish, honey bee, American bullfrog, and the state of Missouri silhouette. The appliqué process will be taught and constructed

in class. All sewing will be done at home on your own sewing machine. Sewing machine demonstrations will be done in class.



This will be the second class offered in a four-part series. Join us for one or all of the remaining classes. Please take note, the third class will be held at Powder Valley CNC. The second and fourth classes will be held at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park. Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park is located at 800 Guy Park Drive in Wildwood, Missouri 63005. Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin November 24 by calling Powder Valley at 314-301-1500.)

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east to Kirkwood, take S. Kirkwood Road (Route 61/67). Follow Route 61/67 to Watson Road. Go west on Watson Road to Geyer Road. Go north on Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

10 Homeschool: Creatures of Habitat – Winter

Thursday 10 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 7 – 12) A habitat provides food, water, shelter, and space for the animals living at Powder Valley. It sounds nice and easy, but life in the wild is tough. Learn how animals use their diverse adaptations to survive in a habitat. Come prepared to explore the forest. (Reservations begin November 24.)



12 Let's Talk Turkey

Saturday 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

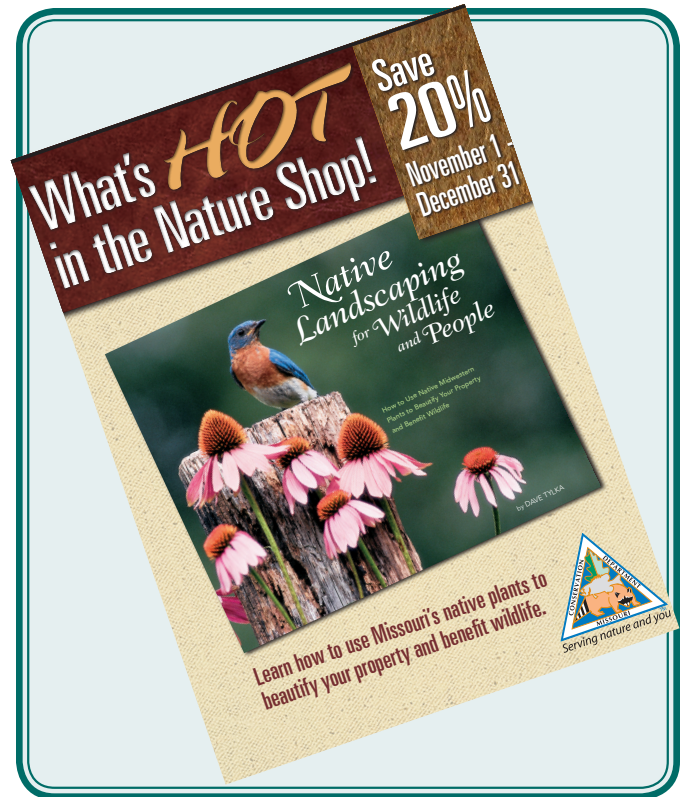
(Ages 7 – 12) One of the Conservation Department's big successes is the restoration of the wild turkey population in Missouri. Starting from numbers so low that by today's standards we would call it endangered, the wild turkey has made a dramatic comeback. Now anyone who loves the outdoors can expect to come across these magnificent birds from time to time. Let's learn more about their interesting lives with activities and crafts. Weather permitting, we'll go outside and look for wild turkeys or their signs, so please dress for an early winter walk. (Reservations begin November 24.)



18 Winter's Gifts

Friday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 3 – 6) On the first day of winter nature gave to me...a cardinal in an oak tree! Come and celebrate nature's winter animals as we practice counting our own "12 days of winter" song. We'll also read a winter story and make a gift to give back to nature! (Reservations begin December 3.)



Nature Films!

Powder Valley shows nature films most weekends. They are shown in the auditorium and are free of charge. No reservations are required and groups are welcome! Please call for specific program dates and listings: (314) 301-1500.

Children's films are shown 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Family films are shown 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Volunteer Milestones

Ellen Aufenthie 100 hours
Beth Herreid 400 hours
Ray Zimmerman 1250 hours

Conservation Connections



A Love Affair with Fly Fishing

by Len Patton, Volunteer, Missouri Department of Conservation

This love affair did not begin in any romantic setting or youthful experience like a high school dance. It all began in a most unlikely place after an even more unusual event. In 1959 at the conclusion of a poker game in a college dorm this love affair was born. A young fellow from California put his split bamboo fly rod in the pot to cover his bet. He soon learned that one can't bluff a Midwestern farm boy with a pair of fours.

Being from Illinois I had never had any kind of fishing rod in my hand that had less than a ten pound test line and a plug with treble hooks dangling from the end. Furthermore, I had never even seen a fly rod except in fishing magazines. Now fifty years later that old rod has grown to a family of eight and fly fishing and I have developed a true love affair.



In these fifty years I have traveled over most of the United States and fished many of the famous rivers, streams, and creeks that boast good fishing opportunities. My love for fly fishing has motivated me to seek out places I would otherwise have never seen. I have shared my passion for fly fishing with many people and have taught young and old the joy of placing a small feathery object on the water in an attempt to fool a fish.



Fly rods have always been the rod of choice for most serious trout fisherman. For that reason most folks believe that trout are the only fish that one can catch on a fly rod. Wrong, wrong, wrong. Remember I was from Illinois and had only fished lakes and ponds full of sunfish, bass, crappie, catfish, and yes, even carp. Some of my best fishing experiences with a fly rod have been on farm ponds. I didn't even catch a trout until I moved to Missouri in the 1960's. If you are just getting started fly fishing or if you are introducing a youngster to this great lifelong sport I would encourage you to start on ponds and lakes. You may not catch the big one but you will catch a lot of fish and have fun doing it without getting worm juice on your fingers.

Many people tell me, "Oh no, I'm not going try fly fishing. That looks way too hard for me." Please believe me when I tell you that you can be casting a fly, and then catching fish after thirty minutes of good instruction. We are truly blessed in the St. Louis area with good opportunities to learn to fly fish. Many Fly Fishing clubs give free instruction and will help you get started. The thirty-six lakes at the Busch Area are great places to practice what you learn.



Conservation Connections

Missouri Department of Conservation Outreach and Education Interns

The Missouri Department of Conservation internship was designed to teach undergraduate students about the job that the MDC naturalists do by allowing them to assist and facilitate programs presented at schools, daycares, and onsite at the conservation areas. This internship also allows the intern to attend assorted lectures and talks to enhance their education about the department and topics of their interest, and assist in various other tasks around the department. Some of the tasks that have been offered to interns included collecting data for studies currently being conducted within the department, helping to teach teachers ways to enrich their classroom curriculum with the outdoors, and community outreach at different fairs and conventions.

Pamela Young, a senior at the University of Missouri-St. Louis pursuing a degree in Biology, worked at the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area this past summer and had the following to say about her time with MDC:

"I feel that this internship helped to provide me with lots of experience that can assist me with any job that I apply for within the department or anywhere else. The variety of content that I was exposed to helped me to see some of the concepts I learned in class in action, and provided me with an idea of other jobs that a degree in biology can offer. I also feel that this internship has helped to tailor my undergraduate education into one that better reflects what I want to study in graduate school, which is plant conservation.

"During the duration of this internship I have learned how to present programs to various age groups, teach children how to fish, how to collect data for goose numbers, dove numbers, water quality of a stream, and how to market programs held at the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. I think the most beneficial aspect of this internship was seeing what conserving various areas throughout Missouri has done to improve the quality of life for the communities who have access to them."



For information on upcoming internships with the Missouri Department of Conservation, please watch the Employment Opportunities at <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/>

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049

Range Hours: May 1 - August 31: Wednesday 2 p.m. - 8 p.m. , Thursday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

September 1 - April 30: Wednesday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and all State and Federal Holidays.

For reservations call (636) 938-9548 Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From the east/St. Louis: I-44 west to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire road. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway. From the west/Eureka: I-44 east to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges/>

NOTICE: The Rifle/Pistol range will be closing December 1, 2009 for an 8 – 10 month renovation. The trap, shotgun patterning and archery ranges will remain open. Progress reports will be included over the next several months including a reopen date.

6 Introduction to Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP)

Sunday 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 9 & up) In cooperation with the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation, Henges Range continues its fourth year in the youth trap shooting program. Eligible participants include students from elementary school through high school. Parents and interested participants are invited to meet with the coaches for a discussion of the program, what is involved, and the opportunities available in this competitive shooting skill. (No reservations required.)

10 Discover Nature – Families: Winter Survival Skills

Thursday 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

(Families) Prepare yourself for cold-weather activities. Our program will provide information on selection of proper clothing, outdoor gear, fire-building, shelters, direction-finding, avoiding weather-related hazards plus other outdoor tips to make your winter experiences safe and enjoyable. Discover Nature Families programs are designed to help adults and children explore nature and master outdoor skills together. Class limit is 40. (Reservations begin November 10.)



17 Discover Hunting – Predators

Thursday 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

(Ages 11 & up) Predator hunting is a great past time and can be done at times of the year when other hunting seasons are not open. Not only is this sport fun and exciting, it can be very inexpensive to get into. This introductory program will cover the basics of predator hunting. We will talk about equipment needed, set-ups, calling, decoys and other topics. Information covered will be the basics as well as some advanced tactics. (Reservations begin November 17.)



25 Christmas Day – Jay Henges Range Closed

For a complete listing of all Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education classes throughout the region, visit the web at www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis and click on the "Hunter Education" link on the left of the page.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304

Hours are: December 1 - March 31 open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April 1 - November 30 open Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Closed all State and Federal Holidays.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D. Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch/>

NEW HOURS for the Busch Shooting Range

As many of you know the Busch Shooting range installed lights on all of its ranges about three years ago. This was to provide more opportunities for people who could not come on the weekends or on weekdays after work before the range closed for the day. For the past couple of years the range has been open late on Tuesdays from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. year-round.

We have learned there is a sharp decline in shooters after the deer season begins and the colder temperatures set in. People prefer to shoot when the sun and the temperatures are up. As of December 1, 2009, the Busch Shooting Range will change its hours as follows:

December 1 through March 31 we will be open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

April 1 through November 30 we will be open Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., and Tuesday from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m.

16 Venison Burger & Sausage Making 101

Wednesday 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(Ages 8 & up with a parent or adult) Deer Season is here. Congrats, you got your deer. Now you can get ready for a feast. Join us and we will show you how to process, prepare, and use the right type of mixture to get a tasty venison burger that your friends and family will enjoy. We will also show you how to make our favorite sausage. (Reservations begin November 14.)

17 Venison Cooking

Thursday 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(Ages 8 & up) All your hard work is finally going to pay off. You got the deer, processed the meat and it is ready to cook so bring your appetite to this class. Our experienced cooks can give you hands on training and will share their secrets to cooking venison. (Reservations begin November 14.)



25 RANGE CLOSED – HOLIDAY

30 Discover Nature – Family: .22 and Air Gun Shooting

Wednesday 9 a.m. - Noon

(Ages 8 & up with a parent or adult) This class will introduce the basics of .22 rifles and air gun shooting. It will cover subjects on safety, proper handling techniques, ammunition selection and other related topics. This is an ideal class for those interested in air rifles and .22's and want to do it safely so that the whole family can enjoy it. (Reservations begin November 25.)

For a complete listing of all Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education classes throughout the region, visit the web at www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis and click on the "Hunter Education" link on the left of the page.



Conservation Connections

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Sign up to receive a direct link on-line to **Conservation Connections** by visiting www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/ and entering your e-mail address.

Terry “T-Mac” McCarty, a long time Hunter Education Instructor and Missouri Department of Conservation employee, lost his battle with leukemia this past July. Terry was the most passionate Hunter Education instructor many of us will ever have the opportunity to work with. His ability to pass his knowledge on to thousands of other outdoor enthusiasts was truly a sight to behold. Terry enjoyed anything which involved the outdoors, whether photographing, hiking, fishing, golfing, or



hunting, he never seemed to have a bad day, so long as he could be outside. Terry was very active in the Missouri Hunter Education Instructors Association and The Trappers of the Starved Rock black-powder club. One of his many accomplishments was to be named Hunter Education Instructor of the Year for the St. Louis Region. His knowledge, skills, and attitude for the outdoors will be deeply missed, not only by his co-workers, family and friends, but by the many people that have enjoyed his programs over the past several years. Terry is survived by his wife Jan McCarty, daughter TJ, Son-in-law Brian Wagster and three lovely granddaughters.

Did you know that you can conserve paper and receive this information quicker? Sign up to get a direct link on-line to *Conservation Connections* by visiting www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/